



GATEWAY PROCESS

Progress at MC² – and ultimately graduation from MC² – is “competency based”. This means students must provide evidence of both learning and application of that learning in order to receive credit. Thus, instead of grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, which are typically time-based, we have phases 1, 2, 3, and 4. The phases are essentially comparable to grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, but progress through those grades is based on documentation and exhibition of learning.

The Gateway process is designed to accomplish **three tasks**:

1. help students identify and reflect on their learning and personal growth;
2. engage students in publicly presenting and explaining their learning; and
3. collaboratively set goals for students' next stage of learning.

The **Gateway Exhibition** is a public presentation of the student's growth and preparedness. In a 20 – 30 minute time frame, the student presents his or her learning to an audience, followed by 10 – 15 minutes of questions from the audience. The student is assessed by a panel, comprised of the student's advisor, parents, and a student advocate, as well as the MC² Director, and 1 – 3 outside panelists (depending on the student's current phase).

The panel then meets to assess the student's performance. Following this deliberation, the student meets with the panel to receive the panel's assessment and feedback. The complete process takes between 60 and 90 minutes.

Exhibition Panelists – Serving as an outside panelist for a Gateway Exhibition is one of the most effective ways to learn about MC².

An outside panelist's responsibilities are:

1. to review the materials sent to in advance (student's portfolio, and the Gateway "rubric" [assessment criteria])
2. attend the student's gateway
3. ask questions during the Q & A time
4. assess the student using the Gateway rubric
5. participate in the assessment discussion with the rest of the panel,
6. participate in providing feedback to the student presenter,
7. complete a feedback sheet for MC², about the gateway process itself.